

# Governor's Water Augmentation Council

## Long Term Augmentation Committee

### Summary of Committee Progress

February 10, 2017

**Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources**

The Long Term Augmentation Committee met on January 27<sup>th</sup> here in this room to discuss the scope of the committee and our end product for the GWAC.

The Committee is comprised of several GWAC Members, their appointed representatives, and technical experts requested by the Committee Chair. Current Committee Members are: Philip Richards and Bruce Hallin who were appointed by Dave Roberts of the Salt River Project, Brett Fleck appointed by Warren Tenney of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Wade Noble and Chris Udall from the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona, Philip Townsend of the Sunlund Chemical Company, Scott Deeny appointed by Patrick Graham of The Nature Conservancy, Sarah Porter from the Kyl Center for Water Policy, Virginia O'Connell of the Arizona Water Banking Authority, Juliet McKenna from Montgomery & Associates, and Bill Plummer.

Although the Committee is run by appointed members, our process allows for public input and encourages feedback from members of the public.

I opened the discussion to the Committee's feedback on acquiring water demand projections as far out as 2060. I emphasized that many water augmentation projects typically have a thirty-five to fifty-year timeframe from concept to completion. Therefore, demand projections should be obtained as soon as possible to expedite the process.

Warren mentioned that the demand projections from the Water Resources Development Commission were overly optimistic at the time that it was published, yet water demand has managed to decrease since the economic downturn. He offered that we revisit the numbers from the report in order to determine what impact the committee needs to have to meet future demand. Bruce Hallin from the Salt River Project encouraged the research on timelines

within different areas of the state, as well as incremental steps that need to be taken to support a long-term strategy.

Gerry Walker from ADWR replied that her agency has utilized the most recent census data, and is actively acquiring data from the designated planning areas by holding extensive meetings to determine gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Within the Active Management Areas (AMAs) the GPCD is calculated from the numbers reported by water providers. However, it is very difficult for ADWR to obtain accurate demand data by sector because it does not have reported data other than what is available from the Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC) and Community Water Systems (CWS). On a positive note, the planning area process under the Arizona Water Initiative is working with the stakeholders in the planning areas to collect much more reliable data.

Scott Deeny, representing the Nature Conservancy, and Bruce expressed a willingness to share demand projections from their organizations. Wade Noble informed the Committee that agriculture has opportunities with regards to demand mitigation, alternative crops, and better irrigation efficiencies.

I offered that the Committee use the data gathered to determine “hot spots” within the state that are in dire need of a solution to the challenge of meeting projected water demand, and then supplying a recommendation to the GWAC in regards to what studies the Committee needs to undertake in order to learn more about where the focus of the GWAC must be.

The challenges that Gerry posed to the Committee were in deciding which demand sector is driving the supply and demand imbalances, and what strategy to use to augment a certain sector. She disclosed that the agricultural sector water use tends to be the primary driver of water demand within the Planning Areas.

Mr. Hallin pointed out that the finance committee may be able to help to determine if the project may be too costly or feasible. We realize that water augmentation projects will not likely see federal support as they have in the past, and that many of these projects involve the effort to address regional problems currently. There is an importance in knowing what demand the Committee is

trying to meet and what sectors are being augmented. I emphasized a need for a detailed study from professionals of projects that could address specific areas with a demand and supply imbalance with costs per acre foot before the Committee makes any decisions on where to focus next. Then ask ADWR for the financial means to construct those projects. I do not want a state plan because it is not area specific.

The committee plans on having a recommendation for the GWAC by the end of the calendar year that will assist the Council in acquiring the necessary data to pursue water augmentation projects.

The next GWAC Desalination Subcommittee meeting will be held in this room. The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, March 3, 2017.